



COUNTY OF CORNWALL,

District No. 31.

**ST. IVES**  
**Urban Sanitary Authority**



**MEDICAL OFFICER'S**  
**ANNUAL REPORT.**


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TELEPHONE 53.



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COUNTY OF CORNWALL,

District No. 31.

1925.

St. Ives Urban Sanitary Authority.

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MEDICAL OFFICERS' ANNUAL AND  
FIVE YEARS' SURVEY REPORT.

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Area (acres)	....	....	....	1,988
Population	....	....	....	6,402
Number of Inhabited Houses...				1,828
Rateable Value....	....	....	....	£25,676
Penny Rate	....	....	....	£99

**Births** Registered, **90** (54 males and 36 females).

**Birthrate=14·06**

5 Illegitimate Births (4 males and 1 female).

**Deaths** Registered, **97** (38 males and 59 females).

**Deathrate=15·15**

Deaths under one year, 7 (4 males and 3 females).

Infantile Deathrate=77·78 per 1000 births.

**Deathrate** for England and Wales for 1925 is **12·2**

**Infantile Deaths=7** (4 males and 3 females).

Debility from birth	....	....	6 weeks.
„ and Convulsions	....	....	54 hours.
Malformations....	....	....	15 hours.
„ <sup>1</sup>	....	....	16 hours.
Bronchitis	....	....	5 months.
„	....	....	9 months.

Inquest — Newly-born and found dead in wood.

### Ages at Death.

Under 1 year	....	....	....	7
Between 30—40	....	....	....	2
„ 40—50	....	....	....	6
„ 50—60	....	....	....	7
„ 60—70	....	....	....	23
„ 70—80	....	....	....	27
„ 80—90	....	....	....	16

Over 90, two—93 and 96.

No deaths between 9 months and 32 years.

### 19 Diseases Notified During the Year.

Diphtheria	....	3	Deaths	0
Scarlet Fever	....	1	„	0
Enteric Fever	....	1	„	0
Erysipelas	....	1	„	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1		„	0

**Tuberculosis.**—Pulmonary, 10 ; other Forms, 2.

**Total Cases 19,** giving a rate of 2·96 per 1000 of population.

### Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

**Small Pox.**—The houses provided by your Council some years ago, are kept in good condition, and are available at any moment. Fortunately they have not yet been required.

No provision for isolating other diseases. At present isolating is done as far as possible in houses in which cases occur. This is very unsatisfactory, and only successful in a few cases in checking epidemics.

### Causes of Deaths.

						Males	Females
Infantile	....	....	....	....	7	4	3
Phthisis	....	....	....	....	9	4	5
Cancer	....	....	....	....	17	8	9
Apoplexy	....	....	....	....	15	5	10
Heart disease		....	....	....	22	8	14
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	3	—	3
Pneumonia....		....	....	....	5	3	2
Nephritis	....	....	....	....	1	1	—
Anæmia	....	....	....	....	1	—	1
Hodgkinson's Disease			....	....	1	1	—
Acute Mania		....	....	....	1	1	—
Septic Arthritis		....	....	....	1		
Accidental	....	....	....	....	1		
Senile decay and other diseases....					13		



## WATER SUPPLY.

**Chyangwheal,  
Penbeagle,  
Wheal Allen,**

} All deep well or adit water; and pure—always cool—water, with slight possibility of water-borne disease, and not requiring filtration.

### The Reservoir.

The Reservoir is 7.43 acres in extent, with a capacity of about 22½ million gallons, supplied from deep wells or adits, and a moorland stream, into which runs water from swampy and agricultural land.

This Supply is abundant for about ten months, but for two months (July and August) the intake is so small that the available depth of Water has been only one or two feet. The size of the Reservoir and the shallowness of the Water causes considerable loss from evaporation, and promotes the growth of algæ. When the Water is low the advantages of storage in purifying the Water is lessened.

In the Reservoir there is always a possibility of bacilli, or water-borne disease, arising from contamination from the source of the Surface Water, or Gulls.

GULLS.—These are almost daily to be seen, sometimes in hundreds. They contaminate the Water by their droppings and refuse carried by them from unclean sources. At Sunderland it is believed that Bacilli were especially found where Gulls were on the water. The expedients so far tried, such as firing guns, have little effect. If the Caretaker is seen without a gun, they do not heed him.

Other Authorities have had the same experience. Stretching wires (fine piano wire) across water, where the size of the Reservoir was not too large, has been successfully tried at Sunderland, and thought well of by Sir A. Houston.

Water from the Reservoir passes through Candy's Filters, and then into the Service Tank.

The Reservoir has been constructed about twenty years. Previously the Water Supply was from Consols Adit, pumped into the Service Tank. This supply, which was lost when an attempt was made to work St. Ives Consols Mine, is now available. In my opinion the Town Council should consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to again secure this Water Supply from Consols. This abundant supply of pure water could be used for the lower levels of the Town (where two-thirds of the inhabitants reside) leaving the Reservoir at Bussow to supply the needs of the higher parts of the surrounding district and, perhaps, Carbis Bay. The possibility of the Mine again working is very remote, because of the expense in unwatering.

## SANITATION.

Sewers drain all parts of the town, and have been extended to new roads, and empty into the sea.

Water closets are in all houses (excepting a few old dwellings too small to allow of them), and connected with the sewers.

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## SCAVENGING.

House Refuse is collected and removed by contract. Six men and three carts are employed, and visit all parts of the town on alternate days; refuse in bins and in gutters, collected daily, and streets swept on Saturday evenings. The old custom of throwing refuse into the streets and gutters, still exists to some extent. Warnings and notices are issued, and this danger (especially during the summer months) is being lessened.

Gutters and catchpits, in some streets, depend on rain to cleanse them. In dry summers they are offensive and dangerous.

Refuse is carted to a dump at Wheal Dream, and some of it gets into the sea. I continue to have complaints of this refuse dump from residents living near. In the summer especially I have found this refuse a nuisance, and infested with flies.

**Refuse from Cleaning Fish.**—The throwing of this into the sea at the back of the Island has abated what has previously been a source of serious complaints, due to the carting of this through the town, and from being insufficiently covered. I have received complaints from residents as to fish manure piles being disturbed when partially decomposed.

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## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These are frequently inspected, and the majority are well kept. More pressure is being brought to bear in all cases (especially where a laxity of cleanliness is shown), since the new Act came into force, and improved conditions are apparent.

Retailers of Milk, 25; Wholesalers of Milk, 22.

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## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are four Slaughter Houses, all constantly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

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**Bakehouses.**—Number 12; all satisfactory.

**Factories.**—All inspected, and notices of defects given when found necessary, and remedied.



## HOUSING.

Number of Houses, 1,828.

During the past few years several old houses have been demolished or put to other uses.

New houses, 76 ; including 41 with State subsidy.

Houses with defects, 43 ; and repaired to the satisfaction of the Surveyor by the owners.

Housebuilding, which had been in abeyance for some years, revived after the opening of the Railway and the arrival of visitors and new residents years ago. This building has continued.

These houses were not such as were required by the poorer people. At present there is a scarcity of small houses for the working class, with rentals of about £10 or £12 a year. There are various reasons for this scarcity :

1. Many cottages were back to back ; and the remedying of this has thrown out several tenants.
2. Many cottages have been taken by visitors, artists (for studios), and others for business purposes, at a high rental, especially in the lower or fishing part of the town.
3. Many cottages, owned by landlords, were sold at high prices,—beyond the means of the tenants.

The fishing population of the town chiefly suffer from the diminished house accommodation, it being necessary that they should live near the Harbour. In this district there are no new building sites available, and the only way I can see to increase housing accommodation there is to erect houses where some of the old disused fish cellars now stand.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. NICHOLLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

